

REPORT

Of the Committee of Claims in the case of Jacob Shafer, with a bill for his relief.

DECEMBER 17, 1823.

Read, and, with the bill, committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow.

The Committee on private Land Claims, to whom was referred the petition and documents of Jacob Shafer, have had the same under consideration, and

REPORT:

The petitioner states that, in the late war, he enlisted for five years, and served for some time after the restoration of peace; that, being very anxious to see his family, consisting of his wife and eight children, whom he had left in penury, he applied for a discharge, which was given him, on the relinquishment of his right to bounty land; that, at the time he was discharged, there was a soldier of the name of John Sharp, a German, who had completed his term of service, and was solicitous to visit his own country, without any intention of returning to this; that he was advised by Captain John P. Duvall to purchase Sharp's discharge, which he did, thinking it would, in some degree, indemnify him for the loss of his own bounty lands; that he cannot obtain a patent in his own name on Sharp's discharge—wherefore, he asks relief.

There is documentary evidence before the Committee that the petitioner was discharged at Norfolk, in Virginia, on the 15th of April, 1815, after having served about twenty one months; and that his discharge was upon condition, that he relinquished his claim to bounty land.

Accompanying the petition in this case, there is also a certified copy of John Sharp's discharge and endorsement.

The Committee, while they feel unwilling to countenance the transfer of discharges, which, for the benefit of the soldier, was made null by law, think the facts represented by the petitioner entitle him to relief, and for that purpose a bill is herewith reported.

